



# News Release

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**Susan Poff, Public Affairs Officer**

**Dallas VA Medical Center**

**4500 South Lancaster Road, Dallas, TX 75216**

**(214) 857-1158 (daytime)**

**(972) 533-0519 (after hours)**

**Susan.poff@med.va.gov**

**February 7, 2006**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **VA NORTH TEXAS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM INVITES COMMUNITY TO 'SALUTE HOSPITALIZED VETERANS'**

DALLAS – VA North Texas Health Care System invites the public to participate in open-house activities February 13-18 during National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans.

"National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans gives everyone a chance to let those who have given the nation so much know that they are not forgotten," said Betty Bolin Brown, director. "We've invited local veteran service organizations, elected officials, school children and other groups to visit during the week. We want people of all ages to bring Valentine's Day cheer to our patients.

Brown hopes visitors will also learn more about the important roles volunteers play at VANTHCS facilities in Dallas, Bonham and Fort Worth and perhaps pursue volunteer opportunities.

"Over 1,600 volunteers are an integral part of our health care team, and the National Salute program is a great way for people to learn more about helping the veterans we serve, Brown said.

Citizens, young and old, are once again sending Valentine's Day cards and letters to VA medical centers simply addressed "Dear Veteran." Stephen Stous, chief of Voluntary Service, says patients at VANTHCS love the valentines. "They receive so many that valentines are literally hung like wallpaper throughout each facility," Stous said.

Congressmen Sam Johnson and Jeb Hensarling will visit with patients and distribute valentines, as well as many veteran service organizations and auxiliaries, school groups, and local beauty queens.

Individuals or groups wishing to participate in National Salute should call the Voluntary Service office at Dallas VA Medical Center, 214 857-0428 or Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center, 903 583-6283.

**###**